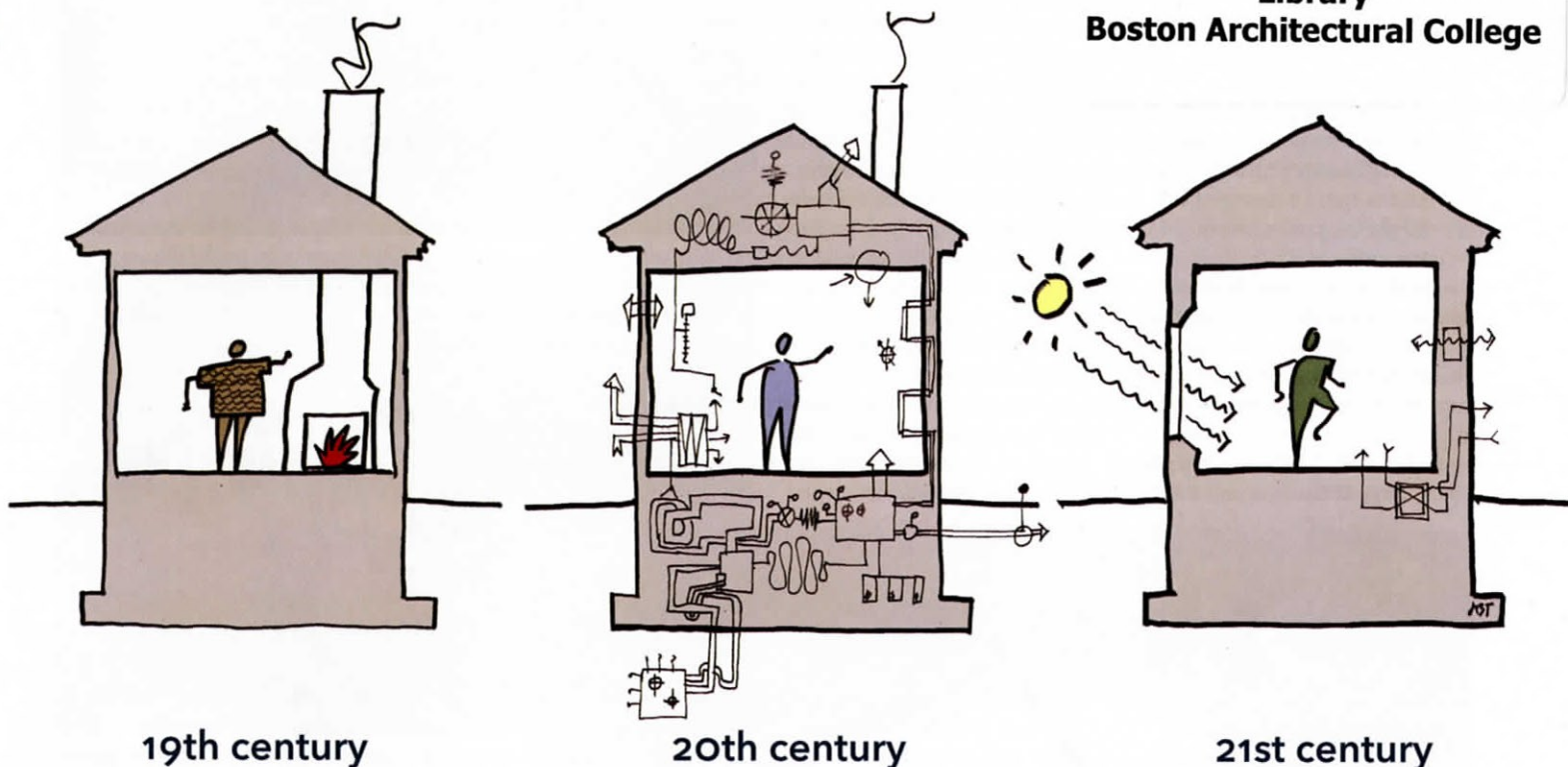


architects.org

chapterletter

march/april2010

Library Boston Architectural College



Smart spaces

Residential Design and Construction
April 14–15
Seaport World Trade Center
Free exhibit hall registration deadline:
March 29
rdcboston.com

AS BUSINESS TRENDS MORE AND MORE TOWARD remote interaction, strategic face-to-face marketing has become more important than ever. The BSA's sixth annual Residential Design and Construction (RDC) conven-

tion and tradeshow will provide industry professionals just that opportunity.

RDC's comprehensive education program covers technical, design and practice issues, enabling professionals who design and build residential and other small projects to earn all their continuing-education credits in one place.

Workshops include topics ranging from zero-net-energy housing to comparing contractor bids, the HERS index, tackling the budget

question with clients, and stretch codes. Participants will learn how to increase profitability, respond to clients in new and innovative ways, and create better, more sustainable projects.

RDC offers a day-long Smart Practice Symposium sponsored by the AIA Small Project Practitioners on April 14, bringing small-firm practitioners from across the country to Boston for an interactive, focused day of practice-related workshops. The day will end with a

design showcase featuring projects and case studies from the national AIA Small Project Design Awards. The event will feature the students responsible for the Curio House—a zero-net-energy home created for the U.S. Department of Energy's international Solar Decathlon. The home has since been bought and developed in Massachusetts by the Housing Assistance Corporation of Cape Cod. The student team will discuss how homeowners can...

(continued, page 2)

Smart spaces (con't)

utilize off-the-shelf products to create real value and comfort on April 14 at 6:00 pm.

Find and compare materials

The exhibit hall features more than 200 residential product and service exhibits, allowing attendees to examine building materials, discover new products and take advantage of special show discounts.

For the second year in a row, the show floor also will feature an Artisans Pavilion. The special quality of handcrafted materials add tremendous value to projects, and designers will get to examine firsthand the products artisans produce.

Throughout exhibit-hall hours, two demonstration stages will host free demonstrations on topics such as home automation, SketchUp by Google, bringing technology into your design business and more.

Network with colleagues and clients

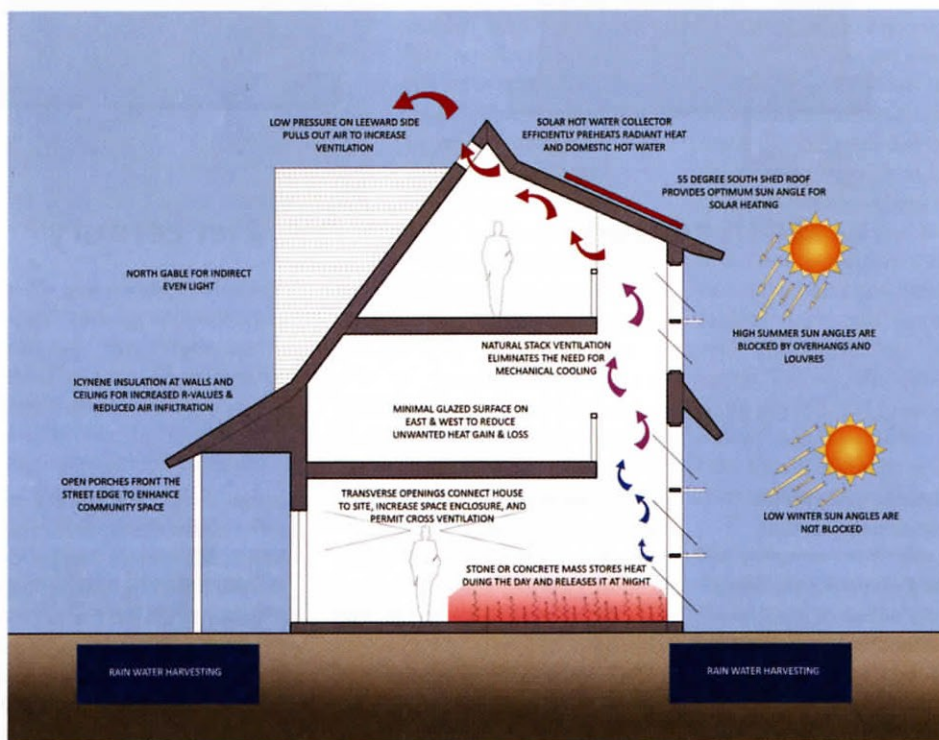
On April 14 at 8:30 am, join the BSA

Residential Design Committee, the BSA Small Firms Committee and the AIA Small Project Practitioners at the Small Firms Breakfast featuring discussions on business and management issues.

On April 15 at 8:30 am, all building-industry professionals are invited to attend RDC's annual Association Networking Breakfast, where participating associations will speak about recent accomplishments and what is in store for the coming year.

Visit the Lounge and the Design Gallery on the show floor during exhibit hall hours to participate in design contests and view portfolios of residential projects submitted by architecture, interior-design and landscape-design firms (to submit work for display, visit architects.org/showcase), or just kick back and relax.

And, of course, attending any of RDC's workshops is a great way to meet collaborators, share your experience and build your network.



RDC workshop A23, "Easton Way Coastal Commons," focuses on an existing dilapidated seaside cluster of residential homes that was transformed into an innovative sustainable community, anticipated to be the first LEED for Homes neighborhood in Rhode Island. The workshop will be led by Glenn Gardiner AIA, LEED AP and Greg Yalanis of Newport Collaborative Architects, and Eric Offenberger PE of Northeast Engineers. Register online at rdcboston.com. Image above: Newport Collaborative Architects.

Join the Loeb Fellows for a smart supper

architects.org/designspeaks

THE BSA IS PARTNERING with the Harvard University Graduate School of Design's Loeb Fellowship program to present "Design Speaks," a new evening lecture series featuring Loeb Fellows. Each discussion is held at The Architects Building at 6:00 pm. Tickets are \$10 (\$5 for BSA members, Loeb Fellows and full-time students) and include a light dinner. Registration is required (seats limited to 35) at architects.org/registration.

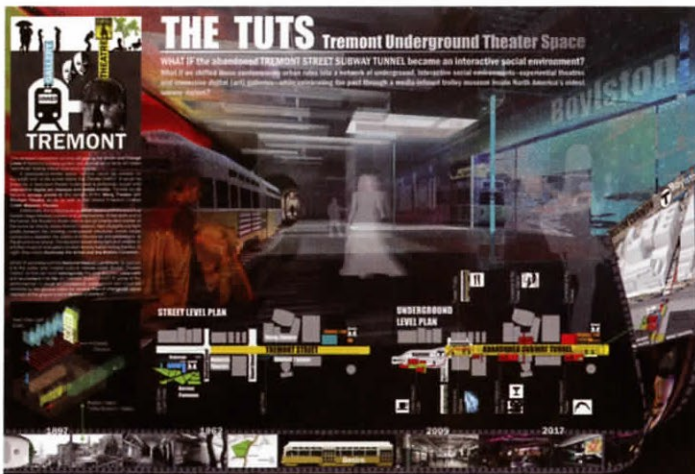
DESIGN SPEAKS

Boston Society of Architects
Harvard GSD Loeb Fellowship

On March 9, **Michael Creasey** explores the engagement of citizenry as stewards of our public lands and partnership strategies to holistically protect America's treasured landscapes. In his roles as superintendent of the Lowell National Historical Park and a leader of the Los Caminos del Rio Heritage Project, Creasey has participated in landscape-scale conservation and heritage-development strategies.

Patricia Leigh Brown shares insights on civic engagement, landscape history, urbanism, multicultural law and the role of community in challenging economic times on March 30. A *New York Times* and *Architectural Digest* contributor, she has studied unsung corners of the cultural landscape, from basement voodoo temples in Brooklyn to the new "ethnoburb" of Fremont, California.

On April 12, **Julie Campoli** tackles relationships between place and culture—exploring how a more sustainable urban infrastructure might arise from greater density, local renewable energy and food production. Frequent visitors of The Architects Building may be familiar with her book and Lincoln Institute project *Visualizing Density*, recognized by *Choice Magazine* and Planetizen as one of the top 10 books of 2007.



The team behind the SHIFTBoston Ideas Competition will present on March 11. Above, top: the winning entry, by Sapir Ng and Andrzej Zarzycki, entitled "TUTS: Tremont Underground Theater Space," which proposes transforming the abandoned Tremont Street subway tunnel into a network of underground, interactive art galleries and social spaces.

Peter MacKeith discusses contemporary Norwegian architecture on April 29. Pictured above, bottom: Svalbard Science Center located in Longyearbyen, Svalbard, designed by Jarmund / Vignæs Architects (completed in 2005). Photograph by Nils Petter Dale.

Join the 'conversation'

March 11 and April 29
7:00 pm
The Architects Building
architects.org/reservations

LEADING ARCHITECTS, EDUCATORS AND DESIGNERS gather to discuss the current state of architecture in the BSA's monthly "Conversations on Architecture" series hosted by Brian Healy AIA.

Sponsored by SHIFTBoston and the BSA, the SHIFTBoston Ideas Competition recently invited design professionals to unleash their wildest visions for Boston's public spaces. The organizers' unique twist was that encouraging unbridled creativity would best effect real change, and the response was overwhelming: 141 submissions from 14 states and 16 countries and a forum discussion and awards ceremony that enjoyed a maximum-capacity audience at the Institute of Contemporary Arts.

On March 11, members of the SHIFTBoston team—Kim Poliquin, Dunja Vujinic, Susan Yoo, Lin Yang Assoc. AIA, Ben Peterson, Sophia Chang, David Deitch, James Jarzyniecki, Michael Modoono, Stephanie Rogowski, Rosie Weinberg and Bicen Ye—share their experiences developing the competition and forum, details on their

current exhibition efforts and a sneak peek at the group's future projects.

The following month, on April 29, Peter MacKeith, associate dean and associate professor of architecture in the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts, discusses the vitality and diversity of contemporary Norwegian architecture and its response to geology, climate, cultural history and purpose.

Since receiving a Fulbright Fellowship to Finland in 1989, MacKeith has acted as a liaison between the architecture cultures of the United States and the Nordic nations. He has worked under the auspices of Washington University's International Center for Advanced Research in Environment and Sustainability as a funded researcher focusing on the design, development and performance standards of low-energy/low-carbon architecture in the United States, the Nordic countries and throughout Europe.

Both events at The Architects Building are open to all. The \$10 fee (\$5 for BSA members and full-time students) covers the cost of food and drink. Reserve your seat (limited to 35) at architects.org/reservations.

Enclosed with this issue of the ChapterLetter is the BSA's first annual report.

The report was created to share both the highlights of the past year and the details of BSA operations. We hope this is a useful summary, and your thoughts on how we can improve this report are welcome at ideas@architects.org or 617-951-1433 x220.



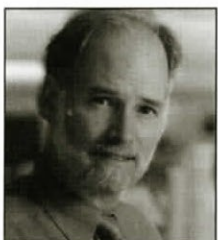


Six local architects elected to AIA College of Fellows



FIVE MEMBERS OF THE BSA and one member of Western Massachusetts AIA are among the 134 American architects elected this year to the AIA College of Fellows. Of the more than 84,000 national AIA members, there are fewer than 2,600 members distinguished with this honor, which recognizes extraordinary contributions in design, practice or service to the industry and the communities we serve.

The members named fellows are (pictured clockwise at left) Sho-Ping Chin FAIA of Payette, Bruce Coldham FAIA (Western Massachusetts AIA) of Coldham & Hartman Architects, Michael Davis FAIA, LEED of Bergmeyer Associates, David Hacin FAIA of Hacin + Associates, Michael Lauber FAIA of Ellenzweig and Hubert Murray FAIA, RIBA of Partners HealthCare.



The 2010 fellows will be honored at an investiture ceremony at the AIA National Convention and Design Exposition in Miami on June 11 (see page 7).



Are you 65-plus or unable to work in the architecture profession due to a disability?

If you also have been an AIA or Associate AIA member for 15 or more consecutive years, you qualify for emeritus status, a free membership category. Visit architects.org/membership to find an "Emeritus Upgrade" form and return it to Membership/BSA, The Architects Building, 52 Broad St., Boston 02109.

Greenberg and Shepherd receive Thomas Jefferson Award

THE AIA HAS HONORED TWO BSA NOMINEES, Ken Greenberg Assoc. AIA and Les Shepherd AIA, with its Thomas Jefferson Award, which recognizes excellence in advocacy and achievement in public architecture in three categories.

Greenberg was recognized for his work to further the public's awareness and appreciation of design excellence. As both a city planner and an urban-planning design consultant with Greenberg

Consultants, he has designed numerous influential masterplans for cities such as Philadelphia, Hartford, Washington and Detroit. He also has created urban masterplans for projects in Boston, Cambridge, Toronto and the Twin Cities.

"Ken is one of the most skilled and respected urban designers practicing in the world today," wrote Kairos Shen, Boston's chief city planner, in a letter of recommendation. "His greatest strength

is his ability to build consensus on even the most controversial of projects."

The AIA recognized Shepherd for his work as a public-sector architect who manages and produces quality design within his agency. A 21-year veteran of the GSA, Shepherd has brought together architects, federal clients and the public in innovative ways to create a higher standard for the design of federal facilities.

"In the last two decades he has

demonstrated his commitment to work closely with architecture, engineering and construction professionals in finding ways to build better, more cost-effective and environmentally responsive buildings in the public sector," wrote Mehrdad Yazdani Assoc. AIA in a letter of recommendation.

Greenberg and Shepherd will be honored in June at the AIA National Convention and Design Exposition in Miami (see page 7).



Making great places

March 18 and April 21, 6:00 pm
Free and all are welcome
Boston Public Library
Rabb Lecture Hall
architects.org/lectureseries

THE BSA'S TWO UPCOMING LECTURES at the Boston Public Library each explore the many components of creating vibrant, viable communities. Both presentations begin at 6:00 pm. There is no charge, and all are welcome.

Great neighborhoods

Have we built any great neighborhoods in Massachusetts in the last 50 years? On March 18, André Leroux and Aviva Rothman-Shore address the Massachusetts Smart Growth Alliance's emerging initiative to get dynamic,

inclusive and connected places built—not just imagined.

Together, they discuss what makes a great neighborhood in Greater Boston, why our region has a lot of great ideas but few great new projects and neighborhoods, and what it will take to get better results on the ground. They also share details on the Great Neighborhoods project and how to engage more people and organizations in this national effort.

Architecture through urban design

"As an architect, I am committed not just to well-designed buildings, but also to the public spaces they shape and the communities they serve," says BSA President Lawrence A. Chan FAIA.

On April 21, Chan, a principal at award-winning architecture and urban-design firm Chan Krieger Sieniewicz, discusses how design and the built environment are enhanced and made more meaningful through urban design. He explores the differences between architecture and urban design, urban-design tools and applications, and how the best practices of architecture and urban design can be combined to create great places.

Did you miss a previous "Exploring Design" presentation? Watch a video of lectures by William Reed AIA and Patti "Garden Girl" Moreno online at architects.org/lectureseries.

Above: In keeping with smart growth and transit-oriented development principles, Domenech Hicks & Krockmalnic Architects and the New Ecology Institute designed the Levedo Building to include 24 affordable rental units and one commercial space in Dorchester's Codman Square.

BSA Research Grants winners announced

THE BSA'S RESEARCH GRANTS IN

ARCHITECTURE PROGRAM has awarded \$60,400 to support six original research projects in 2010. Receiving grants were Wanda Katja Liebermann for "Body trouble: architectural narratives of ability and disability"; Craig Zimring, Ph.D., and Erica Ryherd, Ph.D., LEED AP for "Developing evidence-based design strategies, metrics and methods for improving healthcare soundscapes"; Ryan E. Smith and Joerg Ruegamer for "Energy modeling for housing"; Laura Fitzmaurice Assoc. AIA for "A remarkable woman: Annie M. Cobb (1830–1911)"; Frank Shirley AIA and Fred Gamble for "Comparative study of the cumulative energy use of historical versus contemporary windows"; and Quilian Riano and Dk Osseo-Asare for "Low-cost, low-tech: participatory processes for social housing in Colombia."



Race to help Haiti

Lace up your running shoes on May 1 at 10:00 am for the fifth annual Architecture for Humanity Boston 5K. The run follows the banks of the Charles River and raises funds for Architecture for Humanity, a 501(c)(3) organization aiding the long-term reconstruction effort in Haiti. Donations and entry fees (\$20) are tax-deductible; register online by searching on "Architecture for Humanity" at active.com.



Common Boston Week 2010: Where We Connect

COMMON BOSTON WEEK

2010—the city's only free, public festival of architecture and design—features a rich program of more than 40 open buildings, neighborhood tours, exhibits and events on June 17 through 27.

Concentrated in six neighborhoods (or “Common Points”) around the city, the festival encourages the general public to explore good design that has benefited their communities, while also allowing designers to connect with specific communities regarding their ideas for future projects.

During last year's Common Boston Weekend, the lack of social, intellectual and physical connections between neighborhoods was repeatedly cited as an impediment to the sharing of ideas and experiences that could improve the city's quality of life. Yet Boston's physical environment also has been shaped by inspired efforts to connect the its diverse residents: the nation's

first public park and first public municipal library, the nation's fourth-busiest subway system, and contemporary projects such as Zumix and the Community Rowing Boathouse (pictured above).

Following the theme of “Where We Connect,” Common Boston Week 2010 will explore the places where we connect in Boston, with a special focus on open spaces—including parks, waterfronts, roads, alleys, rooftops, courtyards and empty lots.

The festival also will host its second annual design/build competition. This year's challenge is in partnership with LostinBoston, and teams will have just 72 hours to design and construct creative interpretations of signage on actual sites around the city.

To learn more, make a donation to help keep programming free for the public or to participate as a volunteer, visit commonboston.org.

Above: The Harry Parker Boathouse, designed by Anmahian Winton Architects for Community Rowing Boathouse, winner of the 2009 Harleston Parker Medal. Photograph by Mike Champion.

Visa options for foreign-born architects

THE PAST 18 MONTHS HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT for the architecture profession (see story, page 16). However, the severity of the recession has extra implications for foreign-born architects, who risk losing their H-1B visas as a result of unemployment.

“Immigration law is really case by case,” says Leonardi Aray AIA, chair of the BSA Alien Architects Roundtable and an associate at Stull and Lee. “There's no general rule that applies to everybody, so designers with H-1B visas need to do their homework to find out how best to work with the system should they be in danger of losing employment.”

According to Aray, options may include:

- **Getting a green card.** “If an employer has made that investment of time and money to sponsor you, there's a case to be made that you're a person worth keeping in the country,” says Aray. You may be able to stay in the U.S. as a self-employed person or an independent contractor.
- **Going back to school or training.** You may be able to change your visa to an F visa, which is a student visa and/or a J visa should a company have a trainee/intern program that you may benefit from. The intern/trainee programs (J visa) are for cultural-exchange visitors expected to return to their home countries to use the experience and skills acquired in the United-States. There may be a case to be made for on-the-job training, with the Intern Development Program (IDP), notes Aray.
- **Proving you possess extraordinary qualifications.** If you have been working in the industry and reached a high level of expertise, you may qualify for an “extraordinary ability” visa. If you can demonstrate the required level of experience and reputation, you may be able to change to an O-1 visa and work as a self-employed person or independent contractor, so long as you can demonstrate that you have an itinerary outlined for continued projects for the requested length of the visa.
- **Working in an office abroad.** L visas allow for intra-company transferees who, within the three preceding years, have been employed abroad continuously for one year and who will be employed by a branch, parent, affiliate or subsidiary of that same employer in the U.S.

Of course, it's important to note that nobody can simply stay in the U.S. on a nonimmigrant visa forever. All visas have absolute caps that cannot be extended unless an individual has a green card application that has been pending for at least a year.

Firms can find skilled designers among foreign-born architects, and the BSA Alien Architects Roundtable can help firm principals navigate immigration laws. (Immigration attorneys Roy Watson and Michele Vakili have been a great support to the group.) The group meets on the first Thursday of every month at 6:00 pm at The Architects Building, and everyone is welcome.

The AIA 2010 National Convention and Design Exposition is June 10 through 12 in Miami. Exploring "Design for the New Decade," the event features more than 400 program offerings—including workshops, seminars, tours, expo education and countless networking opportunities. Visit aiaconvention.com for details.

Grissino, Minott and Piermarini receive AIA Young Architects Awards

THE AIA HAS RECOGNIZED

David Grissino AIA, Gregory Minott AIA, LEED AP and Anthony Piermarini AIA with its 2010 Young Architects Award. The award honors individuals who have shown exceptional leadership and made significant contributions to the profession within the first 10 years of their licensed careers.

Grissino, an architect and urban designer at Goody Clancy, has committed his time to a number of BSA committees, developing programs and workshops to serve the Boston architecture profession and representing the BSA in high-profile positions.

For several years, Grissino served on the BSA's elected Membership Enrichment Committee, which plays a key role in assessing the pulse of the BSA membership and the larger design and construction community and guiding the policies and initiatives of the organization. As the committee's co-chair for two years, he initiated programs focused on mentoring and career-development opportunities for young professionals.

Because of his commitment

to the vitality and success of the BSA, Grissino was asked to join the Executive Search Committee established to find a successor to long-time Executive Director Richard Fitzgerald. He also was appointed by the BSA to the Prudential Projects Advisory Committee.

Minott has demonstrated exceptional leadership in design, planning, education and service to the profession.

In his role as a project architect at Elkus Manfredi Architects, Minott made significant design contributions to award-winning transit-oriented and urban-renewal projects throughout the country. He also has played a pivotal role in transforming Boston's Dudley Square: in 2008, Minott led an independent team of architects to produce an urban-design strategy for a Dudley Square parcel. The proposal won first place in a competitive community design and charrette program sponsored by the BSA and the City of Boston.

As a committed mentor to Boston inner-city youth programs, Minott conducts design studios, promotes careers in

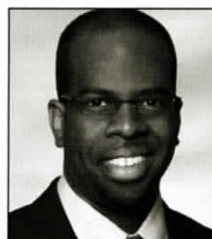
design and cultivates long-term relationships as a role model—efforts that have influenced several minority youths to pursue design-related studies.

Piermarini is a founding principal of Studio Luz Architects.

As part of the Young Architects Boston Group, a collaboration among 10 local architecture firms, Piermarini helped create a prototype green wall and exhibition during the 2008 AIA National Convention in Boston. He also recently participated in the Babson Entrepreneurial Energy Forum and spoke at the Lancaster Energy Forum on sustainable technologies for public buildings.

In addition to his practice, Piermarini teaches at the Rhode Island School of Design, lectures at Northeastern University and State University of New York at Buffalo, and has presented the work of Studio Luz Architects at national and international venues.

Grissino, Minott and Piermarini will be recognized at the AIA 2010 National Convention and Design Exposition in Miami (see above).



Above, top to bottom: David Grissino AIA, Gregory Minott AIA, LEED AP and Anthony Piermarini AIA.

The Lyceum Fellowship Committee invites BSA members to join them in honoring Lyceum founder Jon McKee AIA and celebrating 25 years of Lyceum student competitions. The Lyceum Fellowship 25th Anniversary Celebration on April 10 features cocktails and hors d'oeuvres and a panel discussion led by Los Angeles architect Steven Erlich. Reserve your seat at lyceum-fellowship.org.



Committee spotlight: Women Principals Network



THE BSA WOMEN PRINCIPALS NETWORK meets four to six times a year to raise the profile of women principals and to facilitate their learning from each other. Together, these Boston-area principals have created a roundtable that goes well beyond the questions of work/life balance to tackle the many issues encountered by women leaders of design practices.



"I joined the group last year and find the roundtable a refreshing way to talk about issues," says Stefanie Greenfield AIA of Cambridge Seven Associates. "Over the course of one year, we discussed managing and training staff, diversity, design inspira-



tion, BIM and how to lead. I have been so impressed by the candor, humor and professionalism of these women."

The Women Principals Network has been meeting quarterly for the past four years under the stewardship of co-chairs Sho-Ping Chin FAIA (1) of Payette and Katy Flammia AIA (2) of THEREdesign. The group recently elected Jeanne Lukenda ASLA, LEED AP (3) of Carol R. Johnson Associates and Janet Ross AIA (4) of Ellenzweig its new co-chairs.

All are encouraged to attend the group's next meeting on March 5 at 8:00 am at Ellenzweig, 1280 Mass. Ave., Cambridge.

Upcoming committee agendas and speakers

architects.org/news
architects.org/calendar
architects.org/committees

ALL BSA COMMITTEES are free and open to everyone. Visit architects.org/news for details on these and other upcoming meetings. RSVP for lunch and evening meetings to rsvp@architects.org or 617-951-1433 x221. All meetings are at The Architects Building unless otherwise noted.

Gale Tedhams of Owens Corning discusses corporate sustainability and safety practices at a **Building Systems Committee** meeting on March 11 at noon. On April 8 at noon, the committee meets at Autodesk (1560 Trapelo Road, Waltham) to tour the LEED-CI Platinum headquarters.

On March 24 at noon, the **Access Committee** looks at code requirements for accessible egress in new construction and alterations with representatives from R.W. Sullivan Engineering and Kessler McGuinness & Associates.

Urban designer Ken Greenberg Assoc. AIA, recipient of the AIA's 2010 Thomas Jefferson Award (see page 4), joins the **Urban Design Committee** on April 15 at 5:30 pm to talk about city building and the intersection of economy, community and environment.

Programs, events and deadlines

- Mar 02 May/June 2010 ChapterLetter submission deadline
- Mar 04 Deadline for Interior Design/Interior Architecture Awards Competition (architects.org/awards)
- Mar 09 "Design Speaks" (page 2)
- Mar 11 "Conversations on Architecture" (page 3)
- Mar 18 "Exploring Design" lecture (page 5)
- Mar 19 Deadline for Build Boston workshop proposals
- Mar 25 Principals reception
- Mar 26 Registration deadline for Young Designers Professional Development Institute (architects.org/ydpdi)
- Mar 30 "Design Speaks" (page 2)
- Apr 08 Reception for new architects and new members
- Apr 12 "Design Speaks" (page 2)
- Apr 21 "Exploring Design" lecture (page 5)
- Apr 22 Deadline for Healthcare Facilities Design Awards Competition (architects.org/awards)
- Apr 29 "Conversations on Architecture" (page 3)
- May 03 Deadline for Future of Design Competition (architects.org/awards)
- May 04 July/August ChapterLetter submission deadline
- May 19 Deadline for Campus Planning Design Awards Competition (architects.org/awards)

■ Award/grant/competition
■ Lecture/conversation
■ Reception/network event
■ Public program/convention

■ Editorial/listing submission
■ Workshop/study group
■ Membership

Continuing-education credit is offered at many BSA programs. Visit architects.org/news for details.



People and firms

ARC/Architectural Resources Cambridge received the 2009 Best Use of Materials award at the International Interior Design Association's fashion show. Christopher Angelakis LEED AP (1), Alisa Kahn (2), Cathy Michalowicz LEED AP (3), Peter Reiss LEED AP (4), Kate Shoss (5) and Gary Stein LEED AP (6) were promoted to associate.

Arrowstreet named **Michael Wang AIA (7)** principal, **Sean Selby AIA (8)** associate principal, **Mike Conlan AIA (9)** and **Keri Drake (10)** senior associates and **Claes Andreasen (11)**, **Lauren Haggerty (12)**, **Amy Korte (13)**, **Matt Rice AIA, LEED AP (14)** and **Tina Soohoo (15)** associates. **John Cole AIA, LEED AP, Brad Edgerly AIA** and Selby presented on economic-development strategies for reinvigorating historic New England towns at the Southern New England Planning Conference. Selby presented "Repositioning Existing Properties" at the ICSC Centerbuild conference.

Jason Forney AIA, LEED of Bruner/Cott & Associates will present on the new LEED Platinum-certified Institute for Global Citizenship at Macalester College at the NESEA conference in March.

Former President Bill Clinton and Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe launched the capital campaign for the new U.S. Marshals Museum, which was designed by **Cambridge Seven Associates**, at an event in Little Rock. Clinton congratulated **Peter Kuttner FAIA** on the "terrific design" and added that "buildings matter." **Gary Johnson AIA** spoke on integrating historic restoration with the development of new businesses at the Liberty Hotel to the MIT Sloan School Executive Management Group. **Adam Mitchell AIA, LEED AP, Berton Bremer AIA, and Emily Grandstaff-Rice AIA, LEED AP** will serve as faculty members at Boston Architectural College. **Penny Sander Assoc. AIA** spoke on AV exhibits at the

Commonwealth Museum at the New England Museum Association conference.

Sharon Steinberg AIA and **Kishore Varanasi of CBT** were named to *Banker & Tradesman's* "New Leader" list. **Phil Casey AIA**, **Henry Celli, David Nagahiro AIA** and **Varanasi** served as Citizen Teachers for the Citizen Schools' City Building Apprenticeship program for inner-city school kids in grades 6 and 7. **BOMA Boston** presented Equity Office's One Memorial Drive in Cambridge the 2009 Office Building of the Year Award in the 250,000 to 499,999-sf category; the firm renovated the building's main lobby and public spaces.

DiMella Shaffer's new continuing-care retirement community, *The Legacy at Willow Bend*, was featured in the *Real Estate & Construction Review* Texas edition.

Michael Lauber AIA (16) of **Ellenzweig** will co-present "The Power of Community and Place—Medical Education in West Michigan" at the SCUP 45 Conference in July in Milwaukee.

David Croteau AIA of Flansburgh Associates was promoted to president and presented with **Alan Ross AIA** at the AAIE Conference on "Five Keys to Developing and Implementing an International School Masterplan."

Goody Clancy's David Grissino AIA, LEED is serving as the state-appointed architect on the Designer Selection Committee of the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development. The firm received a 2010 National APA Award for implementation for the planning for Weinland Park with Campus Partners, a 2009 Regional APA Award in outstanding planning, a 2009 Presidents Award for the South Coast Rail Corridor Plan and an honorable mention for Lowell's Hamilton Canal District Plan in the social advocacy category.

Eighteen volunteers from **HMFH Architects** led Box City, a Learning By Design education program, at Baldwin School in Cambridge, covering sustainable design principles such as walkable cities and composting.

ICON architecture's Lowell Hamilton Canal District Masterplan received a 2009 Outstanding Planning Award for comprehensive planning from the APA Massachusetts chapter. The Plant/Cuban Revolution at 50/60 Valley Street in Providence, Rhode Island received a 2009 Merit Award for Adaptive Reuse from AIA Rhode Island.

KlingStubbins provided design services for the now-open Boston Properties' 701 Carnegie Center building in West Windsor Township, New Jersey, that will be leased and occupied by Princeton University. The Autodesk headquarters received *Interior Design* magazine's Best of Year Award in the "eco" category and was featured in the December issue.

LDa Architecture & Interiors received a 2009 Newton Preservation Award for the renovation of the First Unitarian Society in Newton's Church at 1326 Washington Street and a 2009 Best in American Living Award for Split Oaks Farm, an upstate New York residential project, in the best one-of-a-kind custom home up to 4,000-sf category.

Danielle McDonough LEED AP has been elected vice president of the national American Institute of Architecture Students.

Moshe Safdie and Associates promoted **Charu Kokate, Ori Rittenberg** and **Juan Villafane RA, LEED AP** to associates.

Polhemus Savery DaSilva Architects/Builders has redesigned its website, psdab.com.

Warren Freedenfeld AIA of rauhaus freedenfeld & associates lectured on small-animal rehabilitation clinic design and designing small-animal and equine facilities at the Veterinary Rehabilitation Symposium.

Shepley Bulfinch has acquired **Merzproject**, a 2009 *Architectural Record* Vanguard Firm winner, as a studio. **Xavier University's** Conaton Learning Commons in Cincinnati was presented at Educause. The firm opened its archives for an Institute of Classical Architecture & Classical America reception.

Siemasko + Verbridge named **Tobin Shulman AIA (17)** an associate.

Anastasia McVey returned to **SMMA/Symmes Maini & McKee Associates** as a senior interior designer and interiors department manager. **Ara Krafian PE (18)** spoke about sustainability in commercial real estate at the Rhode Island Real Estate Market Overview.

Tsoi/Kobus & Associates' Mark Reed AIA (19) and **Matt Cotton AIA** co-presented "Extreme Makeover: Campus Masterplan Edition" at the Tradeline College & University Science Facilities conference. The Center for Life Science | Boston was featured in *Details in Architecture and Building Design & Construction*, which included interviews with **Rick Kobus FAIA (20)** and **Sara Mills-Knapp LEED AP (21)**. Kobus was named one of the "Most Influential People in Healthcare Design" by *Healthcare Design* magazine and was a chair of the Schwartz Center dinner. **Ed Tsoi FAIA (22)** received an Others Award from the Salvation Army. **Keisy Marquez (23)** appeared on New England Cable News in a *Dream House* segment on Putnam Place.

Tsomidis Associates Architects Planners' Cedars Retirement Community in Portland, Maine was featured in a lecture-series brochure at the International Association of Housing & Services for the Aging's Environments for the Aging conference.

XChange Architects' Derrick Choi AIA, LEED AP (24) presented on assessing project-delivery methodologies in American and Japanese construction at Boston University.



Next Phase Studios welcomes designer Eliot Stulen. The firm is working on a new net-zero-energy greenhouse in western Massachusetts for DCAM and Greenfield Community College (above). The project, a research and teaching facility that includes solar-thermal collectors, photovoltaics and a high-performance envelope, also will serve as a showcase for environmental and energy technologies for students and the larger community. Rendering: Next Phase Studios.



Consigli Construction was named as one of the "Best Places to Work" in Massachusetts by the *Boston Business Journal* for the fourth consecutive year and its Maine operations were recognized as one of the top three places to work in the state in the small/mid-sized category. The firm completed the new Yawkey Distribution Center and headquarters for The Greater Boston Food Bank with Chan Krieger Sieniewicz and completed the gut renovation of the Phillips Academy Paresky Dining Commons in Andover (above), which seeks LEED CI certification, with Schwartz/Silver Architects. The team achieved a recycle/reuse rate of 98.2 percent. Photo: Peter Vanderwarker.



Renovations have begun on **CUBE 3 Studio's** Boston Medical Center Preston Building, fifth floor, which will double the existing space and features a racetrack corridor. Construction has begun on the new ambulatory care center for The Elliot at River's Edge in Manchester, New Hampshire (above). The firm is working on a neighborhood/mill plan for the Lonsdale and Valley Falls neighborhood in an effort to strengthen and revitalize the existing community for the Town of Cumberland, Rhode Island. Rendering: CUBE 3 Studio.



The **MZO Group's** Endicott green residence in Somerville received LEED Silver certification. Photo: The MZO Group.

Portrait credits, previous page:

- 1-6, Genevieve de Manio Photography.
- 7-10, Shelly Harrison.
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- 15, Shelly Harrison.
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- 17, Siemasko + Verbridge.
- 18-19, Bruce Rogovin.
- 20-21, Christopher Goldthwaite.
- 22, Ben Chung.
- 23, Christopher Goldthwaite.
- 24, XChange Architects.

New work

Ann Beha Architects is working on a schematic masterplan for historic Fort Adams, an Endangered National Historic Landmark structure in Newport, Rhode Island.

Bruner/Cott & Associates' MIT Sloan School of Management is now under construction.

Deutsche Bank's **Burt Hill**-designed Boston office is LEED Silver-certified.

Cambridge Seven Associates is designing a new addition for the Maritime Aquarium in Norwalk, Connecticut, including house life-support systems, husbandry space,

a veterinary area and a two-level wave crash tank. The Peter Buck Center for Health and Fitness at Bowdoin College earned LEED Silver certification.

DiMella Shaffer is the design architect for a new graduate housing project at Johns Hopkins Medical Institute with Marks-Thomas Architects.

Doolling Woodbrier Architects is working on the design and construction documents for the conversion of a classic mill building at 245 River Street, Fitchburg into apartments and retail space.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held at the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering of the University at Albany's NanoTech Complex. More than 20 **Einhorn Yaffee Prescott Architecture and Engineering** staff members are collaborating on a variety of initiatives that utilize nanoscale technologies to support energy-efficient building design and operation, including the opening of an Alternative Energy Test Farm and the development of a joint educational and workforce training program to prepare the professionals who will design and operate the high-tech buildings of the 21st century.



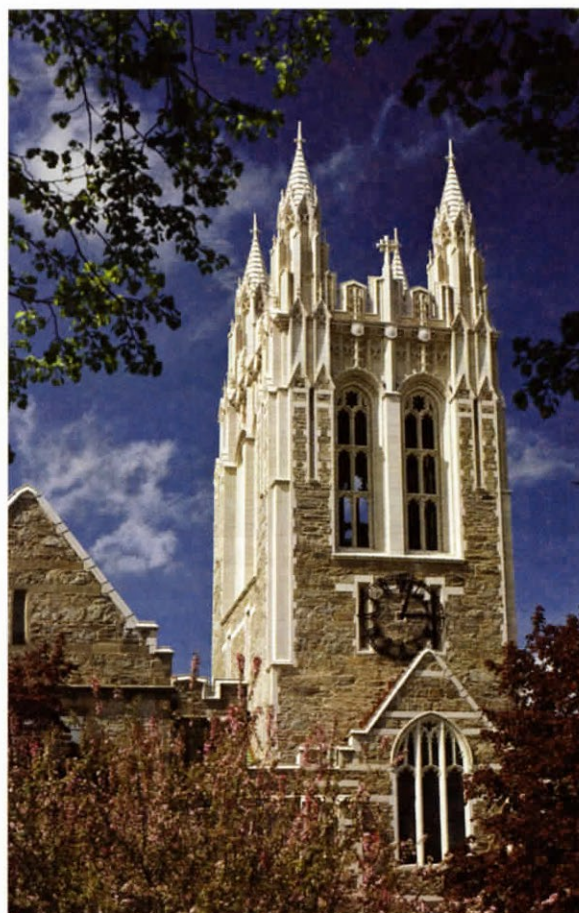
Shepley Bulfinch is designing a teaching clinic for the Southwest College of Naturopathic Medicine in Tempe, Arizona. Sherman Hospital in Elgin, Illinois (above) is now open. Photo: Brian Hunecke.



CBT unveiled the design of the new AI Tech Center in Hartford, Connecticut, which seeks LEED Platinum certification. Rendering: CBT.



Michael Liu AIA of The Architectural Team and Habitat for Humanity Greater Boston chairman volunteered in the 2009 Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Work Project in Ke Sat, Vietnam. Thirty-two houses were built in one week and Liu attended a celebratory dinner hosted by former President Jimmy Carter and First Lady Rosalynn. Photo: Lark Palermo.



McGinley Kalsow & Associates led the restoration of Boston College's Gasson Hall, which received a 2009 PCI Award for best school project. Photo: Gary Wayne Gilbert.

The **Flansburgh Architects**-designed Montessori School of Maui in Hawaii has earned LEED Silver certification.

New and recent work by **Goody Clancy** includes the State University of New York's Old Westbury College facilities masterplan, the Global Heritage Hall at Roger Williams University, a \$55-million addition to the Institute for Human Performance at SUNY Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, New York, including wet and dry labs focused on diseases of the nervous system, and the new Living-Learning Center at Elon University in Elon, North Carolina with Walter Robbs Callahan & Pierce Architects.

Consigli Construction and **HMFH Architects** completed phase-one construction improvements at the Cambridge Rindge and Latin School in Cambridge.

KlingStubbins and Tocci Building are providing BIM consulting services for the U.S. GSA for new and renovation projects on federal buildings in New England, Northeast and Caribbean, Mid-Atlantic, Washington, D.C., Pacific Rim and Northwest and Arctic regions as part of a five-year contract.

Miller Dyer Spears is working with the Boston Public Schools and Public Facilities Department on a fast-track renovation/addition project for the John D. O'Bryen School of Math and Science, including a new main entrance compatible with the original Breuer architecture, and converting a Dorchester industrial building that is more than 100 years old into a Boston Collegiate Charter School building for fifth and sixth graders.

Tsoi/Kobus & Associates is providing architectural design services for science laboratory renovations and modernizations at the University of Massachusetts/Amherst.

William Rawn Associates and **TRO Jung|Brannen**'s new W Boston Hotel and Residences is now open. The firm is working on programming and design for SUNY Alfred State College's Student Leadership Center and designing a new creative arts masterplan for Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Georgia with Carol R. Johnson Associates.

Correction: Ellenzweig is design architect and laboratory planner for three new buildings at Northeastern Ohio Universities Colleges of Medicine and Pharmacy with TC Architects (not "Northeastern Ohio University's Colleges").



BackRiver Townhomes, designed by **Steffian Bradley Architects**, received PRISM Awards from the Builders Association of Greater Boston for best attached home and best attached community as well as a Best in American Living Award from the National Association of Home Builders for best attached home plan. Photo: Rixon Photography.



SMMA/Symmes Maini & McKee Associates' new entry to Providence College's Slavin Student Center is now open. Photo: John J. Scott AIA.



Goody Clancy recently completed the Maureen Murphy Wilkens Science Center at Emmanuel College. Photo: Anton Grassl/Esto.



ARC/Architectural Resources Cambridge completed Tufts University School of Dental Medicine's vertical expansion project, which added five floors to the existing building and seeks LEED Silver certification. Photo: Warren Patterson.

Corporate affiliate news

Acentech's Benjamin Davenny (25) discussed acoustical ceilings in healthcare facilities on the Healthcare Building Ideas blog and earned LEED AP BD+C as well as EDAC accreditations.

Advanced Signing completed design/build projects with BPG Management for an interior directory and tenant-entry system and Global Heritage Hall at Roger Williams University with **Shawmut Design and Construction** and **Steffian Bradley Architects**.

A.J. Martini is working on an interior renovation project for the American Red Cross of Massachusetts Bay Boston and a lab-renovation project for the Boston Collegiate Charter School in Dorchester, both with Jansen Chang Design; a new science and engineering building for Union College in Schenectady, New York, with Einhorn Yaffee Prescott Architecture & Engineering; and tenant improvements for Sugarman, Rogers, Barshak & Cohen in Boston with Visnick & Caulfield Associates.

Carol R. Johnson Associates is developing a masterplan for the Al Shamkha National Housing complex in Abu Dhabi with KEO International Consultants; developing a residential masterplan for Miami University of Ohio with CBT; design services for upgrading Morningside and Inskip Parks in Knoxville, Tennessee; full design services to UMass/Lowell for shuttle bus nodes; developing a masterplan for restoring historic Fort Adams in Newport, Rhode Island with Ann Beha Architects; and designing the site for the new Cedar Residence Hall at Roger Williams University in Bristol, Rhode Island with Perkins + Will.

C.E. Floyd Co. welcomes senior project manager Kevin Boyle (26). The company completed renovations at Elizabeth Seton Residences with Tsomides Associates Architects Planners and a fire-protection upgrade at Blenheim-Newport with Bechtel Frank Erickson Architects.

Columbia Construction is working on the renovation of Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics' organics laboratory on its East Walpole campus with Margulies Perruzzi Architects; a renovation project for Thundermist Health Center in Woonsocket, Rhode Island with Vision 3 Architects; and providing construction contractor services for the Andover IRS modernization project for the GSA with Jonathan



Moshe Safdie and Associates is part of the Great Gulf Group team designing Toronto's Parkside development, an East Bayfront residential and commercial complex. Rendering: Moshe Safdie and Associates.



Acentech provided noise and vibration analysis for the Los Angeles-to-Anaheim corridor of the intercity California High-Speed Rail project (above), and architectural acoustics and audiovisual and information-technology systems design services for the new Villanova University School of Law building in Villanova PA with SmithGroup. Photo: Courtesy of California High-Speed Rail Authority.



Ellenzweig is designing the new Medical Sciences Building at Eastern Virginia Medical School in Norfolk, Virginia with architect-of-record Hanbury Evans Wright Vlattas + Associates. Rendering: Oguz Baykul.



Erland Construction's Dahod Center for Community and Creative Learning at the Pike School in Andover and Waverley Woods in Belmont received an ABC of Massachusetts' Excellence in Construction Award. Photo: Richard Mandelkorn.

Levi Architects and Burt Hill. The firm completed the Yawkey Sports Training Center and new headquarters for Special Olympics Massachusetts with DiGiorgio Associates.

Commodore Builders is providing preconstruction services for the gut renovation of 259 guest bathrooms at the Four Seasons Hotel in Boston with CBT; building a new abode for budgies at the Franklin Park Zoo; office renovation projects at the Broad Institute in Cambridge; the first of a three-phase renovation project for Design Continuum at 1220 Washington Street in Newton; office-space renovations for Lewtan

Technologies in Waltham for Cresa Partners with SMMA/Symmes Maini & McKee Associates; a new office and laboratory design/build project for Monsanto at 245 First Street in Cambridge and MIT's Building 7 laboratory; and new office space for Ironshore Insurance at 75/101 Federal Street with Dyer Brown Architects and Meredith & Grew. The firm's 501 Boylston Street project received the 2009 TOBY Historic Building of the Year award; working with CBRE and Wessling Architects, Commodore is replacing seven roofs and restoring portions of the historic building, including light wells and the interior of the clock tower.

Copley Wolff Design Group is working on Ringgold Park improvements in Boston's South End with Boston Parks and Recreation Department; the University of Massachusetts/Amherst house doctor with Leers Weinzapfel and Cannon Design; Woburn Public Library with CBT; a streetscape plan for Federal Realty Investment Trust's Assembly Square project in Somerville; a public realm plan for 319 A Street, Boston with ADD Inc.; a courtyard design for Providence Place in Rhode Island with Winn Development and The Architectural Team; a campus-entry design for Johnson & Wales University in

Providence, Rhode Island; and landscape design for two elementary schools with JCJ Architecture: Bagnall School in Groveland and Glover School in Marblehead.

CostPro is celebrating its 15th anniversary.

Daniel O'Connell's Sons is working on Deerfield Academy Fitness Center and Greer Store renovations with Kuhn Riddle Architects and completed the CBT-designed Bolger Admissions Building on the campus of Northfield Mount Hermon School.



Erland Construction's Building 2 at Sepracor in Marlborough and Mass Maritime Academy's new cadet addition and renovation in Bourne received an AGC of Massachusetts' Build New England Award. The firm led a Build Boston session on "Stepping Towards Zero Net Energy." The firm is working on a multiphase, fast-track renovation project for Avid Technologies, major renovations to Covidien's corporate headquarters in Mansfield with Holm & Associates and Mauge Architects, the conversion of Judd Gymnasium at Springfield College into a museum with Stephen Jablonski Architects and an office renovation for Insuritas at One Hartfield Boulevard in East Windsor, Connecticut. The firm completed the rehab of 43 Foundry Avenue in Waltham for TC Saracen with LaFreniere Architects and Palomar Medical Technologies' new corporate headquarters in Burlington with Spagnolo Gisness & Associates.

GEI Consultants is providing dam-engineering services for the Long Hollow Dam and Reservoir for Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority and the La Plata Water Conservancy District; environmental assessment and remediation activities in New England, New Jersey and New York for **National Grid**; and ecological engineering services for construction of a bull-trout over-dam passage ladder for PPL Montana, which will allow the threatened fish access to hundreds of miles of free-flowing rivers and spawning tributaries in the Clark Fork River. The firm has relocated its southern New Jersey office to 18000 Horizon Way, Suite 200, Mount Laurel, New Jersey; doubled the size of its Montclair and Huntington Station, Long Island facilities; and added 17 staff at the locations.

Midland Construction's new and recent work includes exterior renovations for the Boston Redevelopment Authority at the China Trade Building, interior office renovations for the Citizens' Housing and Planning Association and expansion space on the fourth floor for YMCA of Greater Boston at 18 Tremont Street with Fusion Design Consultants for Tremont Investors and renovations at Harvard Medical School's Vanderbilt Hall for Johnson Controls.

Nitsch Engineering welcomes marketing director Laurie Strickland. Jerry Blumenthal PE and **Judith Nitsch PE, LEED AP** wrote "Greener Streets—Ushering in a New Era of Sustainable Transportation Engineering" in Urban Land Institute's "sitelines" newsletter. The firm received a 2009 Employer Recognition Award from the American Society of Civil Engineers for its support of young members. The firm received Construction's first honorable mention for its sculpture "CANto Sushi: The Origin of Food as Art."

RDK Engineers welcomes manager of marketing communications and training Katie Schultz.

Richard White Sons is working on renovations to Harvard University's faculty of arts and sciences northwest labs fit-out with Payette, Partners Healthcare System's Newton Wellesley Hospital imaging suite with TRO Jung|Brannen and construction of Temple Beth Elohaim's new religious school building with William Rawn Associates.

Shadley Associates won an invited competition for First Ward Park, a new 5-acre urban park in Charlotte, North Carolina; construction will begin this year. The firm is working on design and construction for the Olmsted-designed Pope Park in Hartford, Connecticut, a new playground at Belmont Day School, and a new park and half-mile-long greenway trail along the South River in Marshfield. This spring, construction will be complete on a new baseball and soccer field, a new dog park and the restoration of a WWII memorial in Malden.

Skanska USA Building is the construction manager for the co-generation facility upgrade at the University of Massachusetts

Medical Center in Worcester and the construction of a second data center for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Information Technology Division in Springfield.

Stantec's new work includes masterplanning services for SUNY Alfred Ceramics, SUNY Morrisville and SUNY Fredonia, all with Chan Krieger Sieniewicz; masterplanning services for Old Colony Redevelopment with Beacon Communities Development; athletic design for Burlington High School varsity field renovations; site design for the National Park Service at Fort Christened, St. Croix, Virgin Islands; and recreation masterplanning for Catawba Park in Tega Cay, South Carolina. The Boston College Veterans Memorial was dedicated. Joseph Geller (27) was promoted to vice president and Frank Holmes PE (28) to senior associate.

Syska Hennessy Group's work includes Morgan Stanley in the Financial District with KlingStubbins; Century Bank in Brookline with Darlow Christ Architects; Qualcomm in Boxborough and Trip Advisor in Newton with Interior Architects; Miami Science Museum with Grimshaw-Architects; Mexico City Aquarium at Xochimilco with TEN Arquitectos; Harvard Business School in Shanghai with Baker Design Group; British Consulate with Gensler; and Barnstable Airport with AECOM.

Tocci Building and KlingStubbins' Autodesk headquarters received *Interior Design* magazine's Best of Year Award in the "eco" category.

Towers|Golde received the American Society of Landscape Architects' Connecticut chapter's Honor Award for Calhoun College: Revitalizing an Historic Gem at Yale University and a Merit Award for Envisioning a New Pedestrian District: Stockbridge Corridor at the University of Massachusetts/Amherst.

VHB/Vanassee Hangen Brustlin's work includes a garage-renovation project at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston with Miller Dyer Spears; a parking and shuttle study for St. Elizabeth's Medical Center; design services for a proposed daycare center in the existing Shaw Building at UMass Medical School in Worcester with **Bond Brothers**; a house-doctor contract at Springfield

Technical Community College with Spagnolo Gisness & Associates; Valencia Community College's new corporate training facility in Orlando with SchenkelShultz Architects; and the USGBC's *Roadmap to a Green Campus*. David McIntyre's (29) article on climate-action planning at colleges and universities will be at ULI's spring conference in Boston. The firm donated \$72,000 in 2009 to the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute through its Jimmy Fund Golf Tournament to support cancer research.

VJ Associates welcomes director of business development Caroline Fitzgerald PE, LEED AP.

Work by **Whitney-Veigas Architectural Products** includes design and supply of signs for Hyde Park YMCA with Linea 5, Brandeis University Admissions with Charles Rose Architects, Gettysburg College athletic center with Cannon Design and Woodworth Associates, Leonard Florence Center in Chelsea with DiMella Shaffer and bid documents for signs for the Roger L. Putnam Technical High School in Springfield for DRA.

William A. Berry & Son employees donated \$507,760 in 2008.

WSP Flack + Kurtz promoted Mark Warren LEED AP (30) to senior vice president and welcomes senior vice president Allan Montpellier PE, LEED AP (31) to Boston from its Seattle office. The MGM City Center in Las Vegas held its grand opening and retail center Crystals has earned LEED Gold certification. The firm is designing mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems for a cancer research facility in Grand Rapids, Michigan, had a project featured in *Electrical Construction & Maintenance* magazine, and is working on a net-zero-energy design for a greenhouse at Greenfield Community College.

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Fame

Submit your news for Fame online at architects.org/submit.

BSA President Lawrence A. Chan FAIA and the BSA Board of Directors are privileged to welcome new corporate affiliate member **lux lighting design** (lighting), **VJ Associates** (cost estimating) and **Tavac Energy Services** (solar-energy design and installation services, efficiency and lighting). For details on corporate affiliate membership, visit architects.org/membership or contact membership director Karin Broadhurst at 617-951-1433 x228 or kbroadhurst@architects.org.

Advanced to AIA Emeritus

Robert De Vries AIA
Robert DeVries Architect

Robert Fondren AIA
Robert L. Fondren Architect

Geoffrey Freeman AIA
Geoffrey Freeman

Richard Hardaway, Jr., AIA
Hardaway Associates

John Hayes FAIA
TAC/The Architects Collaborative

Gary Lahey AIA
Kurt Salmon Associates

Richard Salemi AIA
Salemi Associates, Architects

New AIA members

Najim Azadzo AIA
Tetra Tech Rizzo

Stefan Behnisch RIBA, AIA
Behnisch Architekten

Gianne Conard AIA
General Service Administration

Alok Dhanda AIA
Conner Design/Momentum Architecture

Ana Gordan AIA
Blue Sky Collaborative Architecture

Irene Kang AIA
Leers Weinzapfel Associates

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Einhorn Yaffee Prescott Architecture and Engineering

Kiwon Kim AIA
Leers Weinzapfel Associates

Ronald Meehan AIA
Maguire Group

James Moffatt AIA
Hutker Architects

Bart Nelson AIA
Tsoi/Kobus & Associates

Christopher Sullivan AIA

Advanced to AIA

Leonardi Aray AIA
Stull and Lee

Rachel Feinstein AIA
Maryann Thompson Architects

Jacqueline Scott AIA
Juster Pope Frazier (Western Massachusetts AIA)

New Associate AIA members

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Retail Resource

Dave Charpentier Assoc. AIA

Do Young Chung Assoc. AIA
DYCdsgins

Matthew Emond Assoc. AIA

Daniel Estes Assoc. AIA
Payette

Melissa Frydlo Assoc. AIA
William Canon, Landscape Architect (Western Massachusetts AIA)

Sarah Jump Assoc. AIA
Conner Design/Momentum Architecture

Thaddeus Jusczyk Assoc. AIA
Shepley Bulfinch

Cristianne Peschard Assoc. AIA

Rebecca Rahmlow Assoc. AIA
Architerra

Leslie Schneeberger Assoc. AIA
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Jessica Seligman Assoc. AIA
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Joanna Zavras Assoc. AIA

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Marrikka Trotter Assoc. AIA
Miller Dyer Spears

Glenn Vanaman AIA
Cannon Design

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Scott Plante AIA
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Wheelock Associates Architects

Theresa Whitehead AIA
TJW Architecture

New corporate affiliate members

lux lighting design (lighting)

VJ Associates (cost estimating)

Tavac Energy Services (solar-energy design and installation services, efficiency and lighting)

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Hessam Vakili
Boston Architectural College

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Cornell University

The BSA ChapterLetter

The BSA ChapterLetter is published bimonthly by the Boston Society of Architects/AIA. The ChapterLetter is a service provided by AIA members in Massachusetts to the profession, the public and everyone else with a sense of humor or an interest in 21st-century America. For subscription information, contact membership@architects.org or 617-951-1433 x228.

Letters to the editor, suggestions, criticism and encouragement are welcome. Appropriate submissions are edited and published as space, temperament and prejudices permit. For complete submission specifications and deadlines, visit architects.org/chapterletter.

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Interview with the architectural economist

KERMIT BAKER IS THE CHIEF ECONOMIST FOR THE AIA, where he analyzes business and construction trends in the U.S. economy and examines their impact on AIA members and the architectural profession. He developed the AIA's Architectural Billings Index and the AIA Consensus Construction Forecast Panel. Baker also serves as project director of the Remodeling Futures program at Harvard University's Joint Center for Housing Studies.

Recently, the BSA talked to Baker about his work.

themselves and their projects? So we devised the index as a way for architecture firms to get a sense of what was going on with their peers.

How does the index work?

We started with a panel of about 500 firms, but that panel has grown so it's now closer to 600 firms. There are 18,000 firms in the U.S., so we have a very small percentage of those. But we do know the composition of them in terms of size, specialization and location, so we work very hard to make sure that the panel that reports to us each month is representative of the firms in the U.S.

At the beginning of each month, we send firms a very simple question: What was business activity at their firm like last month compared with the prior month? For example, how was business in January compared with business in December? We don't ask them to provide detail such as "billings were \$1.5 million

in January versus \$1.01 million in December." Instead, we ask if billings were "up a lot," "down a lot" or "generally flat" to get a general sense of direction. Firms check off whatever applies on the forms and send them back to us.

We compile all the information and develop it into an index that's centered on 50. A score of 50 on our national index indicates that, on average, as many firms are seeing an improvement in activity as those seeing a decline in activity. Any score above 50 indicates that more firms are seeing good times and growth than bad times. And any score below 50 indicates that more firms are seeing declines than increases in revenue activity.

How bad is it out there?

This is the steepest downturn the U.S. economy has seen since the 1930s. We've lost 7 million

jobs, which is between 5.0 and 5.5 percent of all jobs in our economy. For architecture firms, the job losses are three times that—more than 17.0 percent of all architecture jobs since losses peaked. So as bad as things are in the broader economy, job losses are at least three times as bad in the architecture profession. For better or worse, we are in a cyclical profession serving a cyclical industry, and we really do feel the brunt of business cycles.

When there finally is an upswing, will it be as dramatic as this decline has been?

We'll see. Having done the index since 1995, we have 15 years of history but only one complete cycle, which featured the dotcom/9-11 recession of 2001, 2002 and 2003.

Recently, I've spent a fair amount of time reviewing that period. The recovery wasn't dramatic: the index slowly moved up and bounced around a little bit. But once the index did cross over the 50 mark—which indicates recovery territory—it consistently stayed above that line. However, it was late 2003/early 2004 before we crossed into growth mode. Recovery occurred about three years after the decline initially began. So I wouldn't predict a sharp upturn, but I would expect a clear indication of when we have finally begun to move from recession into expansion mode.

Has your work with the Remodeling Futures program yielded any data that could help architects reinvent their practices?

Our research indicates that as much money is spent on remodeling, renovations and historic preservation—a market dominated by unlicensed designers who subcontract to contractors or who work in design/build firms—as is spent on new construction, which is what most residential architects focus on.

Architects may never get engaged with replacing a HVAC

system, and generally have little to do with siding and roofing projects, other than specifying products. But kitchen/bath remodels, room additions and many other projects that involve structural work would benefit from the skills and vision of an architect.

What can architecture firms do in light of the tighter lending conditions slowing development?

Three or four years ago, most architecture firms with a design contract would move blindly ahead and assume that a project would go forward to completion. Now, firms need to determine the likelihood of being asked to stop work through the process, or slow down, or modify plans if a lender comes back and says it can now only lend \$5 million instead of the \$10 million expected for a project. It's not something that architects have been trained in, either, which has meant they've had to reevaluate their skill set.

What else can architects do to move toward a healthier financial situation?

They should think about how a firm might be organized in a year or two. During down times, architects tend to get very short-term and inwardly focused. Where is the next project coming from? What am I working on this week? We have gone through the most serious recession of the last 75 years, and when we come out of it, the world is going to look a lot different. We don't know how exactly, but it will be. But practitioners will have the best sense of how their world is changing and how it will likely change if they just sit back and reflect over their experiences of the last few years.

Read more about Baker's thoughts on the economy and the future of our profession in the "Featured Article" section of architects.org/chapterletter.



Why did you create the index?

I started working with the AIA in mid-1995. They created my position because of how painful the early 1990s downturn was for architecture firms, given the number of positions lost and firms that were closed.

Upon talking to some architecture firms, it struck me that they just didn't have information about what was happening across the broader profession. They had a good sense of what was happening at their own firms, but they couldn't generalize from that.

For example, when their billings decreased, had they simply missed out on jobs that they might otherwise have won? Or was it because there wasn't much activity out there? And if they were doing well, was it because there was a general increase in construction activity? Or were they efficiently marketing

Photograph by Edua Wilde.